

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Culvert 15 in LEVEE L-D2 of the Herbert Hoover Dike, Culvert repair by grouting or removal; Environmental Consideration of Proposed Action and determination of Categorical Exclusion (CX)

1. **Location**-Culvert 15 is located at station 1201+05 of Levee L-D2 of the Herbert Hoover Dike as shown on as built drawings of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, D.O. File Number 483-29,084, Sheet 4.
2. **Description**-Culvert 15 was completed in 1933 as a part of the original Herbert Hoover Dike. The culvert was a single-barrel, 21-inch diameter, corrugated metal pipe structure.
3. **Abandonment**-In Central and Southern Florida Project, Part IV Supplement 18—Detail Design Memorandum Herbert Hoover Dike, Levee D2 (Part), D9 and D4 dated 18 September 1962, the abandonment of Culvert 15 was approved. See sheet 10 of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, D.O. File Number 483-29,084 for filling details and Plate 28 of Central and Southern Florida Project, Part IV Supplement 18—Detail Design Memorandum Herbert Hoover Dike, Levee D2 (Part), D9 and D4 dated 18 September 1962.
4. **Culvert Fill**-Based on information, abandonment of Culvert 15 included a crude plug at the lake end and placing the embankment over both ends to the lines and grades of the embankment raise. This culvert was filled with concrete and buried during raising of Levee D2 in 1965. It is currently impossible to utilize this culvert.
5. **Current Plans**- The proposed action is sealing or removal of an inactive culvert in Reach 1 of Herbert Hoover Dike. In the Cutoff Wall Task Order No.3, it is planned to fill and grout the remnants of the culvert within the dike with a low strength cement based fill. This will ensure that water from the culvert does not interfere with cutoff wall construction. The cutoff wall will then be cut through the filled culvert and will therefore be continuous instead of sectional.
6. **NEPA Action**-AR 200-2 "Environmental Effects of Army Actions" and Engineer Regulation (ER) 200-2-2 provide a list of routine actions subject to categorical exclusion from NEPA documentation.
 - a. ER 200-2-2, paragraph 9.a. provides a Categorical Exclusion for "a. Activities at completed Corps projects which carry out the authorized project purposes". Examples include routine operation and maintenance actions, general administration, equipment purchases, custodial actions, erosion control, painting, repair, rehabilitation, replacement of existing structures and facilities such as buildings, roads, levees, groins and utilities, and installation of new buildings utilities, or roadways in developed areas.

CESAJ-PD-ES (AR 200-2-2)

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b. AR-200-2, page 6

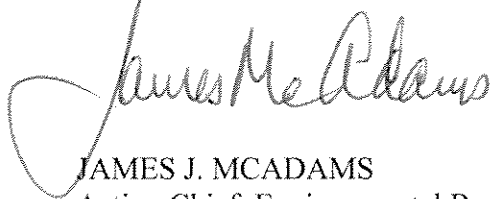
1. Actions that qualify for a CX do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment.

2. The proposed action, removal of an inactive culvert or culverts by cutting and grouting in place, or by removal and replacement with a cutoff wall, falls under CAT EX A-5 of AR 200:

"Routine repair and maintenance of buildings, roads, airfields, grounds, equipment and other facilities, to include the layaway of facilities, except when requiring application or disposal of hazardous or contaminated materials." It further meets the environmental criteria to qualify for categorical exclusion from documentation under NEPA (p. 12-13 of AR 200-2):

c. The action is not of greater scope or size than normally experienced for this category of action (removal of a structure). The structures to be removed are inactive. The action does not pose a potential for degradation, even though slight, of already existing poor environmental conditions. The action does not involve employment of unproven technology. The action does not involve a site where endangered or threatened species or their habitats are present, nor are there archeological materials, historic places or other protected resources. While Herbert Hoover Dike itself is a historic structure the State Historic Preservation Officer has concurred that Dike repairs will not affect its historic significance and no mitigation is required.

d. The action does not require use of hazardous or toxic substances that may come in contact with the surrounding natural environment. The action would not affect areas of critical environmental concern including prime or unique agricultural lands, wetlands, coastal zones, wilderness areas, aquifers, floodplains or wild and scenic river areas.



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